

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **SHANNON**  
County : **CLARE**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	22
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>222</b>

## **Shannon, Co.Clare**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Through the documentation received it is evident that the Shannon Town Tidy Towns Committee work hard on a number of fronts to continually endeavour to improve and enhance the town and its surrounds. Your continual liaison with Shannon Development, Clare County Council and the Schools in your area is noted. Thank you for providing a four year plan, proposed by the Clare County Council, and also the Shannon Tidy Towns Committee's work programme for 2002. Both contain very practical and commendable aspirations and we look forward to seeing their implementation in the years ahead. It is important at this time of considerable change in the layout of the town that there are guidelines such as these in place. In relation to the four year plan it is not clear what input the Tidy Towns Committee had into the drawing up of this and implementation of same (except where the Committee is specifically mentioned). It would be important that the continuing development of the town reflects local thinking.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Shannon town centre, as stated in last year's report, needs to imbue itself with a character of its own and no doubt the present plans for the expansion will address this problem in the years ahead. In relation to the present, the adjudicator found the following maintained to a high standard: - the Shannon Credit Union, the Texaco Service Station, Lydl, De Beers Social Club, the Fire Station and Town Hall, the entrance to the Soccer Pitch, the Comprehensive School, Abbey House, Peach House and Dolmen House opposite the Library. The ESB building needed some attention to the décor and the sign was broken here. Also the Library needed some attention to the paintwork. On the fringe of the town, the hard surfaced playing areas with floodlighting were overgrown and appeared to be abandoned. If this is so, are their alternative plans for these? Also the pathway outside these areas was overgrown and not being used by walkers encountered on the day of adjudication.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Tidy Towns Committee plans for the provision of flowers and shrubs at over twenty sites is very comprehensive and knowledgeable in relation to the most appropriate plants. The results of this planning exercise and implementation of same were apparent during adjudication. Unfortunately, the weather had been very poor coming up to adjudication and therefore the grassed areas were not mown – in view of the circumstances no marks were deducted. In relation to the core town area, the two large car parks should be landscaped to a higher degree as in the present layout of the town they are very visible and the first impression that visitors get of Shannon town. The landscaping outside the Shannon Development offices, featuring the winged sculpture, was admired. Outside of the core town area, the residential areas are well landscaped mostly presenting a pleasant parkland atmosphere throughout. The green area at the

rear of the Credit Union has potential – here the kerbstones at the entrance needed attention.

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The Park further in is well maintained. It was noted that the trees planted near the Garda Barracks are maturing nicely, as indeed is other tree planting throughout the town.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

We note that you have not listed any activities in this category on your entry form. However, the planting undertaken contributes in this section. Also, we note that in the four year plan it is intended to improve and provide signage at the River Walk, and also to undertake a wildlife project in association with the Schools. We look forward to seeing progress in these areas.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was not a considerable amount of litter to be seen on the day of adjudication and litter bins were strategically placed. However, there was a small sprinkling of litter on the roads throughout the various Estates and more pronounced littering on the ring road around the town centre (i.e. at the outer entrance to the Chinese Restaurant and before the opening into the Car park at the Shannon Knights side of the town).

## **TIDINESS**

The town and surrounds were mostly neat and tidy with no kerbside weeds in evidence. Pipe laying was in progress in one area, necessitating disruption but no doubt this will be completed shortly. An itinerant caravan was positioned at the entrance to the new graveyard and clothes were drying on a hedge nearby making the area quite unsightly.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Ninety nine per cent of residential areas (with a few notable exceptions) in and around Shannon town are maintained to a high standard. Some excellent gardens were to be seen and also good use of vibrant colour in regard to décor. The green signs denoting the various housing estates need to be refurbished as their condition is quite poor at this stage.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

There is a considerable contrast in road surfaces in and around Shannon, ranging from primary roads to quite rural type roads on the outskirts of the town. Some of the latter need attention in regard to pot holes. Signage throughout the town is quite poorly presented and needs attention including the sign on the main road for the Shannon

Development head office. On the way up to Tullyglass Heights the lamp standards also need attention as the glass in a number of these was broken.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Shannon is obviously a town where people take pride in their surroundings. The outskirts of the town are very pleasant and present a good area in which to live. The town centre is presently expanding and when this work is completed, no doubt there will be a different and more integrated character to the town. However, the changes will present a new challenge to the Tidy Towns Committee and continued liaison with Shannon Development and the Clare County Council will be essential.